

REMARKS

The present Amendment responds to the Office Action dated September 9, 2005. Concurrently filed herewith is a petition for a one month extension for response.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 4 - 13 and 15 - 21 as unpatentable over *Maxwell* in view of *Serber*.

The examiner rejected claims 2 - 3 and 14 as unpatentable over *Maxwell* in view of *Serber* and further in view of *Melgarejo*.

The examiner describes *Maxwell* as providing a tiltable seating frame for selective positioning, in which a seat platform has opposing sides extending to arcuate edges that travel in opposing front and rear rollers attached to supports, guided by guide rollers extending through an arcuate slot in the sides intermediate the front and rear rollers, with an extendable rod pivotally connected at ends to the seat platform and frame, for guiding the tilting of the seating frame and a locking device to selectively hold the seating frame in a tilted position. The examiner describes *Serber* as describing particular rollers with lateral radially extending flanges to define a bearing surface. The examiner cites *Melgarejo* as describing a tiltable seating frame including slots in a bottom plate and fasteners to secure a seat cushion to the bottom plate.

The claims are amended to distinguish the invention over the prior art. Particularly, the present invention facilitates smooth travel of the seating platform on the opposing front and rear rollers and guide rollers by allowing the adjustment of the position of the guide rollers. This is accomplished by an elongate opening that receives the shaft that supports the guide rollers. Page 21, lines 13 - 18 explain the structure of the oversized opening 296 illustrated in Fig. 11 for adjusting the positioning of the guide rollers.

As to claim 1, the chassis for the wheelchair having a tiltable seating frame includes opposing supports that each define an elongated opening. Opposing pairs of front and rear rollers attach in spaced-apart relation to the supports and receive the distal edge of the respective side extending from the seat platform. At least a pair of opposing guide rollers each attach to a respective one of the supports intermediate and spaced towards the seating platform relative to the respective front and rear rollers. The guide rollers extend through the arcuate slot of the respective side of the seat platform. The guide rollers each mount on a respective shaft that extends through the elongated opening defined in each support intermediate the front and rear rollers. The elongated opening provides for selective adjustable positioning of the guide rollers to accommodate smooth travel of the seat platform on the rollers. Fasteners received on the shaft secure the shaft in a selected position. The seat platform moves to a selected angled position relative to the chassis by the guide rollers moving in the arcuate slots and the distal edges traveling on the front and rear rollers.

Similar amendments are made in independent claim 16 and 18. Particularly, claim 16 is amended to require that the guide rollers each mount on a respective shaft that extends through the elongate opening in the support for selective adjustable positioning of the guide rollers to accommodate smooth travel of the seat platform on the rollers with fasteners received on the shaft to secure the shaft in a selected position.

In claim 18, the opposing pairs of front and rear rollers having shafts that extend through the respective first openings. The shafts are sized for contacting reception on a side edge of the opening. Thus, the position of the front and rear rollers are held fixed relative to the support. In contrast, the guiders extend through and contact an edge of the arcuate slot. The guiders attach to shafts extending through the second openings in the supports. The shaft is sized for selective

positioning relative to a side edge of the second opening so that the position of the guider can be changed to accommodate smooth travel of the seat platform on the front and rear rollers.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 - 13, 15 - 19, and 22 are allowable over the prior art, and same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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